alleging attempts by certain Israeli individuals to settle members of a tribe from Mizoram in Gaza. A group of about 40 persons claiming to practise the jewish faith from Mizoram and Manipur reached Israel with tourist visas in August 1993. These persons may be in search of employment. The Israeli Government have denied any official involvement in this matter.

More submarines by Pak

3890. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item published in the Economic Times dated 3rd August, 1993 captioned "Pak eyeing more submarines" to augment its naval strength; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and reaction of the Government of India thereon particularly the impact thereof on our counting which has maritime boundaries with Pakistan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) : (a) Government have seen media reports to the effect that Pakistan is exploring the possibility of acquiring submarines from various countries to augment its naval strength.

(b) Our concerns about any arms sales to Pakistan disproportionate to Pakistan's legitimate needs has been conveyed to all concerned. Government constantly monitor all developments having a bearing on India's security and take necessary measures to safeguard it.

PM to visit North Korea

3891. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Prime Minister has any plan to visit North Korea which has long standing friendly relations with our country; and

(b) whether Prime Minister's visit to China and USA, may not be rounded up by the Prime Minister's visit to North Korea ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Prime Minister has accepted, in principle, an invitation from the President of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to visit the DPRK. Mutually convenient dates for the visit will be worked out through diplomatic channels.

Hardship faced by Indian citizens in U.K.

3892. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that a lot of hardship is caused to Indian Citizens who visit U.K. due to increase in Visa fees;

(b) whether Government propose to review the fees in the interest of Visiting Indians; and

(c) if so, the details of the proposal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) to (c) It is the sovereign right of every country to fix its own visa fee structure and to revise it from time to time in the absence of a bilateral visa fee agreement. It would therefore be inappropriate for the Government of India to take up this matter with the British authorities.

Attack on Janmashtami procession in Bangladesh

3893. SHRI PUSUMPON THAKIRUTTINAN :
SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that Janmashtami procession brought out by the minority community this year in Dhaka (Bangladesh) was attacked;

(b) if so, whether the Indian High Commission in Dhaka has lodged a protest on this incident with the Government of Bangladesh, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what according to the information with the Government of India, are the details of the casualties suffered by the minority community on account of the attack on the procession ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALAMAN KHURSHEED) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Indian High Commission in Dhaka has not lodged a protest on this incident with the Government of Bangladesh as the protection and welfare of the minority community in Bangladesh is the responsibility of the Bangladesh Government.

(c) According to information available with this Ministry, casualties suffered by the minority community on account of attack on the procession ranged between 50—100.

Amendment of Haj Act

3894. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL *alias* MEEM AFZAL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the amendment to Haj Act is under consideration of Government;

(b) if so, what is the present stage of consideration; and

(c) the time by when the new bill is proposed to be introduced in the Parliament ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) Government have been planning to introduce a new bill on Haj to replace the existing Haj Committee Act (No. 51) of 1959.

(b) The legislative proposals to be incorporated in the Bill are under active consideration.

(c) The new Bill is proposed to be introduced at an early date, after all aspects have been examined.

India's Technical and Economic Co-operation

3895. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the review committee set up by the Government has recommended expansion of India's technical and economic co-operation programme on a reciprocal basis with newly industrialising countries; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the report and Government's reaction in respect thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Among the recommendations made by the team of evaluators of the ITEC programme is that India should actively explore specific areas where it can forge technical and economic co-operation with key developing countries, including the newly industrialised countries of East Asia, ASEAN etc., by translating into action the ideas and concepts regarding technical and economic co-operation formulated on a multilateral basis like the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for technical co-operation among developing countries (1976) and in working out the Caracas Programme of Action for Economic Co-operation among developing countries (1981), the TCDC activities of UNDP etc. Such co-operation could also be brought about through the forum of Joint Commissions and Joint Business Councils which India has with these and other developing countries. It also calls for our Heads of Missions to play an active role in collecting information regarding areas in which technical co-operation and assistance is being extended by countries of their accreditation to other developing countries, and about areas where these countries have developed comparative advantages. In the light of this information, possibilities of co-operation and assistance in fields where other developed countries have acquired requisite competence and specialised knowledge could be explored.

The Report of the evaluation team is under review. The Recommendations contained therein are being examined so that suitable and necessary follow-up action could be taken.

Statement given by Pak P.M.

3896. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL :
SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reported statement of Caretaker Prime Minister, Moeen Qureshi, of Pakistan in the Hindustan Times dated 2-8-93 captioned 'Pak can make nuclear bomb' whenever it is needed;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and reaction of the Government of India thereto;

(c) whether it is a fact that Pakistan has started the construction of Pakistan's second nuclear power plant at CHASHMA, 200 Kms. South-West of Islamabad near Mianwali in Punjab with a capacity to generate 300 megawatt of electricity, if so, when and with whom the contract was signed by Pakistan and which are the countries funding the plant; and

(d) whether Government of India have any proposal to review our nuclear programme in the context of present day demand and situation prevailing in the world ?